

a mission specialist after completing two years of training and evaluation. The STS-121 mission in July will be Ms. Nowak's first mission into space.

During the STS-121 mission to the International Space Station, the crew of the space shuttle Discovery will test new equipment and procedures that increase the safety of the space shuttle. Its mission will be to complete an analysis of safety improvements that debuted on the Return to Flight mission, STS 114, and build upon those tests.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my warmest congratulations to Ms. Nowak. Her work plays a vital role in continued advances and improvements to our space program. Her courage, hard work, and accomplishments serve as an inspiration to us all.

#### TRIBUTE TO FIRE DEPARTMENTS FROM WASHINGTON, CLINTON, MARION AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES IN ILLINOIS

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2006*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the twenty fire departments from Washington, Clinton, Marion and Jefferson Counties in Illinois that, through strength and courage, worked together to put out a massive fire at a warehouse in Nashville, IL. The paint, aerosol cans and paint solvent in the building made the fire especially dangerous. 190 firefighters, of whom 180 were volunteers, worked to put out flames in 800 degree heat to stop the fire from spreading past the 18,000-square-foot section of the warehouse where it initially started.

Under the leadership of Nashville Fire Chief Alan Holt and Assistant Chief Ric James, these men spent 12 hours fighting the fire and accomplished their goal of keeping it contained. Most of the 104,000-square-foot building was saved, and the room next to the fire suffered only smoke and water damage.

I am pleased to thank the fire departments of Nashville, Centralia, Mount Vernon, Hoyleton, Addieville, Okawville, Ashely, Bartelso, Breese, Aviston, Carlyle, Beckemeyer, Germantown, Wheatfield Township, Hoffman, St. Rose, Trenton, Albers, New Baden, and Huey/Ferrin/Boulder for their tremendous effort. I commend them on their display of bravery and dedication.

#### FISH STOCKING IN THE NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK COM- PLEX

#### HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2006*

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that will enable the continued stocking of fish in certain alpine lakes in the North Cascades National Park Complex, which includes the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

For many decades, volunteer groups—working with the State of Washington have stocked trout in a number of lakes in this area. This provides enhanced recreation and tourism opportunities in the North Cascades.

As you may know, the National Park Service as a general policy is moving away from artificially stocking fish. In this case, however, a 12-year university review indicates that the fish stocking program can be carried out in such a way as to not adversely affect the environment.

In order to protect this longstanding practice in the North Cascades, I am introducing legislation today that affirms that fish stocking can continue under certain conditions. While I believe the National Park Service already has the authority to do this under the act that established the park in 1968, the agency requires further clarification from Congress in order to proceed with a proposed management plan revision that would allow this practice to continue under the auspices of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

I am pleased to be joined today upon introduction of this bill by RICK LARSEN, NORM DICKS, and CATHY McMORRIS. I look forward to working with my colleagues from Washington to make sure that our constituents can continue to enjoy the recreation opportunities created by fish stocking in the North Cascades.

#### RECOGNIZING JOSHUA WEST

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua West a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joshua has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua West for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### A TRIBUTE TO SAME RACADIO FOR 18 YEARS AS CITY MAN- AGER OF HIGHLAND, CALI- FORNIA

#### HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to a longtime public servant, Sam Racadio, who as city manager has been a guiding force in the growth of Highland, California from an unformed new city into a municipality known for a dedication to a high standard of living.

For the past 35 years, Sam Racadio has been a hard-working and energetic public servant in city government. He went to work as an intern in the City of Riverside just after graduating from the University of Redlands, and even spent several years in the Peace Corps as a municipal advisor in Maracay, Venezuela.

After some years in city government in Tulare, California, Sam Racadio returned to the Inland Empire as city manager for three years in Banning, California—a fast-growing city in my district.

The late 1980s were a boom time for new cities in San Bernardino County, and one of the most promising, but least organized, of those new municipalities decided to hire Mr. Racadio as its first city manager. When he joined Highland in 1987, he was just the second employee of the city of 28,000, and the city government worked out of a small trailer.

Highland had a small commercial tax base and few businesses of any size when it gained cityhood, and some analysts warned that the new city would have a shaky budget and could fail. To save money for the future, Mr. Racadio vacuumed floors, cleaned bathrooms and gathered up trash.

By continuing that dedication to saving taxpayer dollars, Sam Racadio has helped build Highland into a thriving city that now has a population of more than 50,000. There are three new parks, a City Hall, and a community center. Coming soon are a municipal pool, a library and athletic center.

Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to work with Mr. Racadio on the development of a city environmental learning center, which will provide access to hands-on, state-of-the-art science facilities for school children and city residents. When it is completed, it will be a model for cooperation between city officials, schools and federal agencies.

As my colleagues can imagine, Mr. Racadio's visionary work as a city manager has been widely recognized among his peers. He has served on the League of California Cities Board of Directors, and was president of the City Manager's Department of the League in 1999. He was president of the San Bernardino County City Managers Association from 1990 to 1998. He was the inaugural recipient of the James A. Thalman Memorial Public Service Award from the Inland Division of the league of cities and received numerous other awards.

Mr. Speaker, after 35 years of public service and 18 years of dedication to the City of Highland, Sam Racadio is retiring to travel with his wife of 36 years, Len. Please join me in thanking him for all he has done to make his community a better place, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO MIKE VADALA

#### HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2006*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mike Vadala as the Chairman of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). Elected to the NAFCU Board in 1997, Mike has been a leader in the